AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0053] with the following amended paragraph.

[0053] In the operation of the apparatus of the invention, the waste material to be treated is first introduced into the dryer subsystem 20 via an inlet 32. After drying in a manner presently to be described, the dried waste material is controllably fed into the thermal reactor 24 by the novel feed means 22 which uniquely includes both a solid feed means and a liquid feed means. The solid feed means for feeding solid waste material to the converter comprises a gravity fed, bottom surge feed hopper [[34]] 33 of the, general construction shown in FIG. 1C. As will be described more fully hereinafter, the liquid waste materials can be introduced into the pyrolytic converter simultaneously with the introduction of solid materials via the liquid feed means that is generally designated in FIG. 1C by the numeral 35. This novel liquid feed means includes an atomizer means for at least partially atomizing the liquid waste.

Following is a clean copy of the amended paragraph:

[0053] In the operation of the apparatus of the invention, the waste material to be treated is first introduced into the dryer subsystem 20 via an inlet 32. After drying in a manner presently to be described, the dried waste material is controllably fed into the thermal reactor 24 by the novel feed means 22 which uniquely includes both a solid feed means and a liquid feed means. The solid feed means for feeding solid waste material to the converter comprises a gravity fed, bottom surge feed hopper 33 of the, general construction shown in FIG. 1C. As will be described more fully hereinafter, the liquid waste materials can be introduced into the pyrolytic converter simultaneously with the introduction of solid materials via the liquid feed means that is generally designated in FIG. 1C by the numeral 35. This novel liquid feed means includes an atomizer means for at least partially atomizing the liquid waste.

Please replace paragraph [0064] with the following amended paragraph.

[0064] As the waste material, being transferred to the hopper by waste conveyor 120, starts to flow into the hopper [[34]] 33, the upper butterfly valve 122 of the hopper system is moved into the open position shown in FIG. 1C of the drawings and the lower butterfly valve 124 is moved into a closed position blocking any transfer of waste material from the hopper into the auger

portion 126 of the feed assembly. Once intermediate chamber 128 of the feed assembly is filled with the waste to be pyrolyzed, a vacuum is drawn within chamber 128 by a vacuum pump "V" that is interconnected with chamber 128 by a conduit 130 (FIG. 1C). After chamber 128 has been suitably evacuated, butterfly 124 is moved into an open position permitting the waste contained within chamber 128 to flow into the auger conveyor means of the feed assembly without jeopardizing the integrity of the vacuum within the reactor chamber. As is indicated by the arrow 129 in FIG. 1C, the dried waste material entering the chamber 130 that contains the conveyor screw 133 is controllably fed into the reactor chamber via hollow shaft 132 and inlet 134 of the reactor chamber (FIG. 2A).

Following is a clean copy of the amended paragraph:

[0064] As the waste material, being transferred to the hopper by waste conveyor 120, starts to flow into the hopper 33, the upper butterfly valve 122 of the hopper system is moved into the open position shown in FIG. 1C of the drawings and the lower butterfly valve 124 is moved into a closed position blocking any transfer of waste material from the hopper into the auger portion 126 of the feed assembly. Once intermediate chamber 128 of the feed assembly is filled with the waste to be pyrolyzed, a vacuum is drawn within chamber 128 by a vacuum pump "V" that is interconnected with chamber 128 by a conduit 130 (FIG. 1C). After chamber 128 has been suitably evacuated, butterfly 124 is moved into an open position permitting the waste contained within chamber 128 to flow into the auger conveyor means of the feed assembly without jeopardizing the integrity of the vacuum within the reactor chamber. As is indicated by the arrow 129 in FIG. 1C, the dried waste material entering the chamber 130 that contains the conveyor screw 133 is controllably fed into the reactor chamber via hollow shaft 132 and inlet 134 of the reactor chamber (FIG. 2A).